

Urban District Council of Barrowford.

Gisburn Road,
Barrowford, Jan. 12th, 1906.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of presenting to you my Thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the District.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that when the census was taken in 1901 some of the factories were closed, and in consequence many of the houses were vacant, besides a number of the inhabitants were away on their holidays. I therefore base my return on a population of 5500.

During the year ending the 31st day of December, 1905, there have been 74 deaths registered—34 males and 40 females. This gives an annual death rate of 13·4 per 1000.

The births registered were 115—males 54 and females 61—giving an annual birth rate of 20·9 per 1000.

The following table shows at what ages the deaths occurred :

Deaths under 1 year11	under	{	21	Total 74
1 year and under 5 years,	10	5 years	{	53	
5 years	15	1	{	53	
15	25	4	{	53	
25	65	24	{	53	Total 74
65	over	24	{	53	

The rate of deaths under 1 year of age to 1000 births=95, which, if you refer to table "I," shows it to be the lowest for the past 11 years.

Zymotic rate, of seven principal Zymotic diseases = 1.8.

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of deaths and the ages at which they died; under the " Notification of Infectious Disease Act " there have been reported 37 cases. They were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	13
Diphtheria	11
Erysipelas	10
Enteric Fever.....	4
Membranous Croup	1
Total.....	<hr/> 39

In every case prompt attention has been paid by the Sanitary Inspector. Where the cases occurred the drains and mains sewers were regularly flushed with water, and disinfectants freely used, and house fumigation carried out by the use of Sulphur di-oxide.

Early in the year I received notice that some persons residing in May Street had been in company with others from a house in Nelson where there was a case of Smallpox. I recommended these persons to be asked to remain in quarantine, with the satisfactory result that no case of Smallpox occurred in this district.

During the first half of the year there was a severe epidemic of Whooping Cough, five deaths having occurred from this disease. I regret to say that in the majority of cases very little care is shown in the nursing of this dangerous malady.

Two of the cases of Enteric Fever occurred in the same house, and I have in a previous report recommended the removal of the disused pig-houses situated in front of this dwelling.

I again recommend the Council to consider the advisability of procuring an apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, &c.

During the year two streets have been paved, &c., namely, Old Row, and the street between 112a and 114, Gisburn Road, comprising,

		47 yards of Curbing,
289	„	Channelling,
193	„	Flagging,
809	„	Paving.

There have also been new closets and ashpits built, and a retaining wall to the river at Calder Vale, but the condition of Grove Street and the unpaved portion of Garnett Street, should receive the attention of the Council.

I again draw your attention to the bad state of the Main Road, and to the sweeping of the side streets; also to the insanitary and defective closet and ashpit accommodation for the houses 2 to 16, Gisburn Road, and 18, 20 and 22, Gisburn Road.

The Cellar Dwelling which I referred to in my last report has received attention, and is now in a sanitary condition.

Throughout the year we have been plentifully supplied with good and pure water from the Nelson Corporation reservoirs, which cannot be too highly estimated.

The district is well drained by pipe sewers, and the sewerage disposed of by Intermittent downward filtration.

Along with the Sanitary Inspector I have regularly inspected the Slaughter-houses. There are five in the district, and I am pleased to say are very much improved, the floors and walls are in good order and kept clean, and the ventilation is satisfactory. The Dairies are well kept and the Cow Sheds clean, but the latter short of air space, light, and ventilation.

There are nine Bakehouses, which are kept in good order.

The Factories and Workshops have also been regularly inspected by us. Many improvements have been made in the closet accommodaton— old ones removed, and new ones erected on the water carriage system. More attention should be paid to disinfectants being used, and the ventilators should be kept open.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK DE B. PIM.